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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/516,972

07/14/2005

Stephane Oberli

37253

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116 7590 09/06/2007
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EXAMINER

WATSON, ROBERT C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3723

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/06/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/516,972

Applicant(s)

OBERLI ET AL.

Examiner

Robert C. Watson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 August 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schaer.

Schaer at Figure 2 shows a pig having rubber tubular parts 6 and a support part 7,9. The support part 7 is made of rubber and is capable of deformation to some extent since deformation is a relative term. The pig has an element 5 which is made of rubber and may properly be called a seal because the disclosure states that it creates a vacuum with the walls of the pipe. The support part 7,9 axially supports the seal 5. The surfaces on the support part may be termed guide surfaces since they are capable of engaging the inside of a pipe from time to time as the pipe changes direction. As per Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary (1975) "Rubber" is defined as "an elastic substance". The examiner interprets this definition as meaning elastic in all directions (including the radial direction).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schaer in view of Jonnes.

Jonnes teaches that the support part may have teeth 16 extending radially.

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To provide on the support part of Schaer teeth extending radially would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made in view of the disclosure of Jonnes. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this in order to enhance the ability of the support part to elastically deform and to reduce friction.

Claims 3-5 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schaer in view of Crane.

Whether component construction or integral construction is used is no more than an obvious matter of choice as these are both well known and obvious construction expedients. For example Crane shows that various parts comprised of elements 10, 10r, 10f may be integrally constructed. To apply this broad teaching of integral construction anywhere desired in Schaer would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made in view of the disclosure of Crane. In Figure 2 of Schaer the orifices 12 may be termed a pressure reducer in communication with an internal cavity 10 and the external space between the two seals 5. Since the seal is disclosed as creating a vacuum with the walls of the pipe the seal may be termed a high pressure lip seal. The front guidance element 7, 10 is conical and has a receptacle. Such a receptacle, like all receptacles, capable of housing any number of structures including a cable ferrule.

Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schaer in view of Crane *supra* and further in view of Constant et al.

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Constant et al teaches that the front and rear parts of the pig may have conical guiding fingers. To provide conical guiding fingers on the front and rear parts of the Schaer in view of Crane pig supra would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made in view of the disclosure of Constant et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this in order to better guide the pig through the pipe. In Schaer tubular part has an open front at 10 and a partially closed radial wall at 11.

Claim 6 is withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 3/10/07.

Applicant's remarks have been given careful consideration but these remarks are not persuasive of any error in the rejection. Applicant states that the rubber parts of Schaer are not capable of elastic deformation. Applicant's position is considered to be in error. The very definition of "rubber" means -- an elastic -- substance. This is broadly interpreted as meaning elastic in all directions including the radial direction. Applicant further argues that the support part in Schaer does not have guide surfaces. Applicant's position in this regard is found to be in error. The surfaces on the support part may be termed guide surfaces since they are capable of engaging the inside of a pipe from time to time as the pipe changes direction.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert C. Watson whose telephone number is 571 272-4498. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thurs. , 5:30am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph J. Hail III can be reached on 571 272-4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

rcw

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert C. Watson", with a stylized, flowing script.

ROBERT C. WATSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER